

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. The following translation is based on information extracted from a Venezuelan Communist Party (PCV) clandestine document titled Sobre La Situacion Nacional (Concerning the National Situation), approved by PCV on 10 December 1952.

On 4 and 5 December 1952 the high-ranking leaders of the Democratic Action Party (AD) followed a policy which was inconsistent with popular interests. The militant members of AD, considered to be of the lower echelon, were willing to fight against the electoral fraud perpetrated by PEREZ Jimenez. For example, in Caracas and Anzoategui this faction of AD was united with the Communists and other Venezuelans interested in the resistance movement. Without a doubt the mobilization of the lower echelon of AD against PEREZ Jimenez was hindered by the vacillating and contradictory directives emanating from the leaders of AD.

Obviously the political impotency of the National Executive Committee of AD and its diversionary and anti-Communist tactics have created dissension within the ranks of AD. More and more it becomes evident that Romulo BETANCOURT and his followers have misled AD with a policy that is essentially supported by adventurous circles of the Venezuelan Army, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Military Mission in Venezuela.

The leaders of AD are far from having defeated the prevailing military dictatorship. It has weakened the popular movement and has contributed greatly toward impeding the work of liberation. It is apparent that AD's policy serves the interests of North American imperialists.

The leading element of AD continues to deceive the militant members of that organization with its pretense of being in a position to unseat the present government by force within a short time. This false pretense is hampering united action in

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the struggle of the masses against the government. BETANCOURT and his followers have been able to maintain control of AD simply because of this illusory promise to the rank-and-file membership.

PCV should continue its policy of trying to effect the removal of BETANCOURT as the leader of AD, since he is primarily responsible for obstructing united action among the political opposition forces. Every attempt should be made to win over the militant members of AD to the cause of unity and the fight of the masses. Collaboration between AD and PCV should be effected in all phases of activity, especially in the labor movement.

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